

Discovery

Dear Future CCC Member,

You are reading this page because you have expressed interest in having more information about Christ Community Church or you are pursuing membership at CCC. While a formal process is necessary to convey pertinent information we also realize the best process to connect anyone into the body of Christ is highly relational. There is no substitute for heart to heart contact with another brother or sister at CCC to assist you in experiencing what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

There are no shortcuts to being a thriving part of the most glorious place on earth...a participant in the body of Christ. Biblical concepts like faithfulness, service, stewardship, and discipleship replace common notions that view the church as an enterprise to provide spiritual entertainment for consumers. As you deepen your relationship with Christ and others in His church you will experience a profound joy, but it will not be without challenges. Maximizing your experience at CCC entails mutual responsibility on the part of each individual member and the corporate church body. We want to equip you with some necessary tools to help you do your part, meet the challenges, and maximize the joy.

If you are interested in being a member of CCC we recommend the following track. The below sequence will coincide with the class sessions in the Discovery group.

Before the first meeting...

1. Complete Part 1, lessons 1-5. You will find scripture passages related to each lesson at the end of the lesson.

Before the second meeting...

2. Complete Part 2, lesson 6 titled "How I Got Here." This will help you to celebrate what God has done in your life and prepare you to share your story with the Discovery Class.

3. Read the "Beliefs and Practices" document. Here you will find the beliefs, practices, and ministry philosophy of CCC spelled out.

4. Sign the membership form (provided on the website or in the Discovery Group materials) and hand in to the CCC office via mail or hand to Mary Douglas or Kevin Short or put in the Membership bin at the CCC office at the CCC facility.

We want the Discovery group to be helpful and informative. If at anytime in the process you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask your Discovery group leader, talk to an elder or call the church office.

Elders of CCC

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GOD'S COMMUNICATION TO MAN LESSON #1

The Bible originated from God and was communicated by God. In the following passage, circle the words or phrases that address these truths. What specifically are these words or phrases saying?

"For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God." (1 Corinthians 2:10-12 NASB)

The Bible is also God's disclosure to man about His character and His design for man. This disclosure is what we call God's **REVELATION**. In fact, over 3800 times in the Bible, the writers said it is God's words they are writing and not their own.

From the following verses, list your observation about HOW the Bible came to us.

1 Corinthians 2:13

2 Peter 1:20, 21

***A Christ-dependent community equipping people
to impact their world***

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Read *II Timothy 3:16*. Write down any observations you have about the actual amount of scripture that is inspired by God.

The way God delivered the scriptures to us is called **INSPIRATION**. The word "inspiration" means God-breathed. We can see from these verses that God inspired the message, rather than inspiring the men. God, being the author, approved the finished product, eliminating the possibility of human error. These men were not mechanical secretaries to the Holy Spirit, but God actually used each individual personality in communicating His words to us in an accurate manner.

What do the following verses say about understanding the scriptures?

I Corinthians 2:14-16

II Timothy 2:15

This ability to understand the scriptures is what we call **ILLUMINATION**.

Revelation is the **MESSAGE**
Inspiration is the **METHOD** of delivery
Illumination is the **UNDERSTANDING** } of God's words to man.

Why don't we probe further? It could be said, "These are nice claims, but don't other books claim to be God's communication to man?" This is the kind of question that deserves further investigation. Let's take a look at some of the distinguishing features that separate the Bible from all other writings.

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THE BIBLE AS TRUTH

What does the Bible claim about itself in the following verse?

Psalm 119:160

The Bible always speaks truth. It does not claim to be exhaustive, but to be truth whenever it speaks about any topic, such as science, history, God and real life.

Let's go a little deeper. Take, for instance, the second law of thermodynamics, which is the law of increasing disorder. The Bible spoke of this law in *Romans 8:20-22* before scientists observed it. Comment on what this verse has to say about the earth.

**Since God actually is the original author of the Bible,
it must necessarily be accurate in every area. If the
Bible is inaccurate in any area it becomes suspect in all areas.**

THE BIBLE'S AUTHENTICITY

How can we know that what we have in today's translations of the Bible are accurate representations of the original manuscripts? Let us look at another prominent writing and compare the data. Homer's Iliad, for example, is considered to be extremely accurate because of the amount of manuscripts that have been hand copied and the proximity of the earliest manuscripts to the original. Compare the New Testament to the Iliad and write your conclusion as to the authenticity of the New Testament.

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BOOK	# OF MANUSCRIPTS	EARLIEST MANUSCRIPT
<u>Iliad</u>	643	500 years from original
New Testament	Over 24,000	25 years from original

Your conclusion:

Based on this evidence what conclusions can you make about the Bible's preservation and trustworthiness as a document?

THE BIBLE'S UNITY

Consider the fact that the Bible was written over a period of a thousand years by over forty authors, yet all agree in content. One of the themes of the Bible is God's pursuit of man. If man were to author a book about knowing God, would he say that man couldn't find God on his own accord? What does the fact of over 40 men writing about the same general topic and yet having no contradictions say to you about the Bible's origin and author?

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THE BIBLE'S PRE-WRITTEN HISTORY

One of the greatest points to give evidence to the Bible's claim to be God's words is that it described historical events before they occurred. This is what we call **PROPHECY**. Take a look at the following prophetic passages and the fulfillment of each. Make notes of any observations you have under each verse.

PROPHECY GIVEN	PROPHECY FULFILLED
<i>Micah 5:2</i> (about 730 B.C.)	<i>Matthew 2:1-6</i> (First Century A.D.)
<i>Isaiah 50:6</i> (about 680 B.C.)	<i>Matthew 27:26-31</i> (First Century A.D.)
<i>Psalms 22:16-18</i> (about 1100 B.C.)	<i>Luke 23:33,34</i> (First Century A.D.)

It is interesting to note that the last Old Testament book was written about 450 B.C. Jesus Christ was on the earth in the first century A.D. The Old Testament contains over 300 references to the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus.

What do these prophetic fulfillments tell you about God's involvement in writing the Bible?

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To summarize this section, what conclusions can you make about the Bible being God's written communication to man?

Do you have any questions about what we have studied thus far?

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Bible References for Lesson #1

I Corinthians 2:10-12

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

I Corinthians 2:13

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

II Peter 1:20, 21

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

II Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

I Corinthians 2:14-16

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

II Timothy 2:15

Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Psalms 119:160

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Romans 8:20-22

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

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Micah 5:2

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Matthew 2:1-6

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

Matthew 27:26-31

Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Psalms 22:16-18

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet — I can count all my bones — they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Luke 23:33,34

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* And they cast lots to divide his garments.

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WHO HE IS AND OUR RESPONSE LESSON #2

**It is comforting to know that God
has not left us in the dark about who
He is and what life is all about**

The Bible is God's revelation to us about who He is. Let's take a look at some specific scriptures that can help us gain a true perspective of God.

THE PERSON

God reveals Himself as three distinct personages. In the following verses identify these three.

II Corinthians 1:3

Hebrews 1:8

Acts 5:3,4

How does *I Peter 1:2* affirm the fact that there are three distinct personages of God?

Read *James 2:19* and *I Timothy 2:5*. What is said of how many gods there are?

Who do you think is referred to by the "Us" in *Genesis 1:26*?

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What may at the initial appearance seem to be confusing is actually a testimony to the uniqueness of God. He is one, yet reveals Himself as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our finite ability to understand this does not detract from the nature of this infinite God.

Does God's being a Trinity have any significance to you? Explain

CHARACTERISTIC: Number One

What characteristics about God can you see from *Psalm 90:1,2* and *Revelation 22:13*?

The fact that God is **self-existent** has pertinent ramifications. Man must go back to his origins to find meaning. We see this need in a limited sense when people feel compelled to search out their family tree. Locating their roots gives some a feeling of belonging and purpose. God being self-existent means that He is the source for man's sense of belonging and meaning.

What meaning does this truth about God have for you?

God's self-existence implies that He is the ultimate source for man's sense of belonging and meaning.

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CHARACTERISTIC: Number Two

What characteristic about God can you note from *Malachi 3:6*?

In a world that is ever-changing, the fact that we can know someone who never changes can have a stabilizing influence. The fact of God's being **immutable** (never changing) can give those who know Him a firm foundation for dependence.

What does the characteristic of God's immutability mean to you?

God's immutability can give those who know Him a firm foundation for dependence.

CHARACTERISTIC: Number Three

What attribute do you notice about God in these following verse?

Isaiah 40:12-14

Romans 11:33,34

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When we look at God's knowledge we discover that it is perfect and inexhaustible. This is called omniscience. It can be comforting to realize that God comprehends everything and understands all aspects of life. A benefit of God's knowledge is that God knows how man will best fit in life's picture.

What importance does God's omniscience have for you?

A benefit of God's knowledge is that God knows how man will best fit in life's picture.

CHARACTERISTIC: Number Four

Each of the following verses contains a characteristic of God. Read the verses and record the characteristic below.

1 John 4:8,9

Exodus 34:6

Jeremiah 31:3

What did you notice to be the object of God's love in these verses?

How would you describe God's disposition to you? Remember: He does not change!

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Let us take a look at two more attributes of God. Describe what part of His personality you notice in these verses.

CHARACTERISTIC: Number Five

Isaiah 6:3

Ezekiel 36:23

CHARACTERISTIC: Number Six

Exodus 34:7

Psalms 37:28

How does God's holiness and justice affect the way He responds to the world?
To you?

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What misconceptions about God did this study help you identify?

Put in your own words a brief character sketch of God based on the study thus far.

**When we look at God's knowledge, we
discover that it is
perfect and
INEXHAUSTIBLE!**

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HE'S GOT A GREAT PERSONALITY, BUT...

Based on what we have previously studied about God's character, share some of your thoughts about how you should begin responding to God.

When people have a true picture of who God is and what He says, their responses are remarkably similar. Take a look at the biblical record and see what affect an accurate perspective of God and what He said had on individuals.

Read the account of Job in *Job 42:1-6*. He was a man who suffered considerably, but finally came to grips with God's character. Write this passage in your own words.

Read in *I Chronicles 29:10-20* the responses of a group of people who began to realize the character of God. What was included in their responses?

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Read *Isaiah 6:1-8* and make a note of some general observations about Isaiah's responses to God.

What are some threads of similarity you see woven in the above responses?

If we were to generalize these responses, we can see that when these men had an accurate view of God, they responded by giving God His due acclaim. This is called **WORSHIP**. They also began to see themselves in light of God's character, and replied with telling the truth about themselves. This is called **CONFESSION**. They also had a compelling desire to do what God instructed them to do and followed through with that desire. This is called **OBEDIENCE**. All of these responses came from having an accurate picture of God.

How do our responses to God indicate our view of God?

The Bible is God's communication to man, which describes His characteristics and reveals God's direction for living. When a person acknowledges the true nature of the Bible, a personal response becomes critical.

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List the positive responses to God's message that are in *1 Thessalonians 1:6-10*.

The Bible can have a profound impact in the life of one who comes to grip with its truth. According to *1 Thessalonians 2:13*, why were these responses so life transforming?

Worship, confession, and obedience are proper responses of a person who has an accurate picture of God.

When a person acknowledges the true nature of the Bible, a personal response becomes critical.

Read *1 Thessalonians 2:14-16*. Record from verse 16 the results of responding negatively to God?

Since the Bible is God's specific communication to man, your response to the Bible is the same as your response to God.

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What are some of the purposes of scripture according to *II Timothy 3:16,17*?

Take the following words from *II Timothy 3:16-17* and write a synonym or definition for each.

"Teaching"-

"Reproof"-

"Correction"-

"Righteousness"-

As we have just seen, the scriptures are intended to show you from God's point of view what to believe, what not to believe, how to act, and how not to act.

What do you discover to be some of the abilities of God's Word as shown in *Hebrews 4:12,13*?

To personalize *Hebrews 4:12,13*, how accurate do you think God can be in knowing who YOU are and what YOU need?

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It is imperative at this point, for you to honestly consider what your present responses are to God, and principally, what you want them to be. God says that He would much rather have you be honest in your refusal to listen to Him than to act like you are listening, when in fact you really are not (*Revelation 3:15,16*).

What is your honest estimate of where you are and where you want to be in your relationship with God?

What questions do you have up to this point?

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Bible References for Lesson #2

II Corinthians 1:3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:8

But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

Acts 5:3,4

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

I Peter 1:2

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

I Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Psalms 90:1,2

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Revelation 22:13

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

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Malachi 3:6

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Isaiah 40:12-14

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

Romans 11:33,34

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

I John 4:8,9

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

Exodus 34:6

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Jeremiah 31:3

The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Isaiah 6:3

And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Ezekiel 36:23

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

Exodus 34:7

Keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.

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Psalm 37:28

For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

Job 42:1-6

Then Job answered the Lord and said: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. "Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

"therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

I Chronicles 29:10-20

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. "Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. "And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. "For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. "O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. "I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. "Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision." Then David said to all the assembly, "Bless the Lord your God." And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and to the king.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the

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voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

I Thessalonians 1:6-10

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

I Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

I Thessalonians 2:14-16

For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved — so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But God's wrath has come upon them at last!

II Timothy 3:16,17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12,13

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Revelation 3:15,16

I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

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THE STATE OF HUMANKIND

LESSON #3

If you have gotten this far you have had to reckon with the Bible being a book inspired by God in which His characteristics are described. Hopefully, you have seen that the implications of your beliefs in these two areas have much to do with how you think and live. Like most, you may have had some common misconceptions in these areas. Take a look at God's perspective of humankind.

HOW DID IT ALL START?

As you read the following verses write down God's evaluation of His creation. Make note of any conclusions below.

Before Man	God Said	Day of Man's Creation	God Said
<i>Genesis 1:10</i>		<i>Genesis 1:31</i>	
<i>Genesis 1:12</i>			
<i>Genesis 1:18</i>			
<i>Genesis 1:21</i>			
<i>Genesis 1:25</i>			

Read *Genesis 1:26,27*. What implications do you think being created in the image of God has for humankind?

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We can be certain that since humans are the only creatures on earth created in God's image, they are special in unique ways. The uniqueness is shown in their intellectual (*Genesis 1:26, 2:20*), moral (*Romans 1:18,19*), and spiritual (*Ecclesiastes 12:7*) capacities.

Do these unique qualities of humans provide any advantages for relationship with God? If so, what?

Do these unique qualities provide any advantages for relationship with other human beings? If so, what?

**The greatest privilege humans had
at creation was the ability to
freely fellowship with God.**

We read in *Genesis 2:16-3:7* about the choice man had between good and evil. God gave man at his creation the ability to be a free moral agent. Let's take a look at the course man set for himself.

Describe the choices man made in *Genesis 3:1-7*?

What was the result of Adam disobeying God in *Genesis 3:3*?

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What can you surmise from Adam and Eve's responses found in *Genesis 3:7-13* as compared with *Genesis 2:25*?

Stop at this point and draw any applications you can make from these Genesis accounts and your observation of humankind today.

SPECIAL NOTE

We should take notice that God created humans perfect, including a free will, which allowed him to choose good or evil. Using this free will, man chose to do evil aided by the fallen angel named Satan. Man's fall explains not only the cruelty of man to man, but also some of the earth's "natural" problems. The problem of evil in the world can be traced back to the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

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What can be said of humankind's natural condition as recorded in these verses?

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 3:9-23

What is the eternal consequence of disobedience as recorded in *Revelation 20:15*?

Every human since Adam has inherited a natural bent to disregard God. The choice of disregarding God and refusing to obey the commands of God is called **sin**. Sin has not only disconnected man from the resource, which provided him with the ability to have right relationships, but has separated man from God for eternity. The ultimate consequence of man's response to God is his spending an eternity in heaven or hell.

Despite man's dilemma, what knowledge does man still possess according to *Romans 1:19* and *Ecclesiastes 3:11*?

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We have seen that humans have dignity because they are created in God's image, but helpless in their own ability to specifically relate to God. This chasm with God, causes a multitude of moral and relational problems. We are now left totally dependent on God's remedy for moral and relational dilemmas.

Try asking God to show you how we can begin relating to Him to really live life, like God intended.

**Sin has not only
caused a
break in our relational ability
with others,
but has separated
us from God
for eternity.**

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Bible References For Lesson #3

Genesis 1:10

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:12

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:18

to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:21

So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:25

And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:26,27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:20

The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Romans 1:18,19

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

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Ecclesiastes 12:7

And the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Genesis 2:16-25

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, "but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:7-13

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you

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were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Romans 3:9-23

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; "no one understands; no one seeks for God. "All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; "in their paths are ruin and misery, "and the way of peace they have not known.", "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Revelation 20:15

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Romans 1:19

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

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GOD'S PROVISION FOR HUMANKIND LESSON #4

It has often been asked, "How could God allow all the bad things in the world without doing anything?" Let's recap some of the facts we have discovered thus far to help us with this question.

1. Man was created with the ability to love volitionally. Man is not a doll from which God pulls a string to hear "I love you."
2. Since man chose to disregard God, he must therefore live with the consequences.
3. Man cannot help himself but must rely on God to provide an answer to what life is about.

The **fourth point** to consider, and the focus of this study, is that God HAS done something to help the world and specifically you. God has an open invitation to every person to come back into fellowship with Himself. Let us take a look at the way God has done this and what it means for us.

GOD'S REMEDY

The New Testament claims that a particular person is God's provision for revolutionizing man's life. Read *1 John 5:11-13* and *Ephesians 3:11,12* and list your findings.

What do you perceive to be the implications of this new life?

**God has an open invitation for you
to have fellowship with Himself.**

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THE CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

Now let us take a look at who this Jesus claimed to be. Read the following passages and describe the claims Jesus made.

John 6:26-40

John 8:58

John 10:30

Many today think that Jesus was just a good teacher. Good teachers supposedly teach truth. Jesus claimed that He was God. If we are to honestly consider Jesus to be a good teacher then we cannot ignore His statements regarding His deity.

THE SUPERNATURAL WORKS OF JESUS CHRIST

List after each of these verses the abilities that Christ demonstrated.

Mark 1:40-42

Mark 2:3-12

Luke 22:47-51

John 2:1-11

Mark 4:35-39

Mark 6:45-51

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Luke 8:26-33

Luke 8:49-55

List your deductions from these events.

THE GREATEST MIRACLE

What dramatic event took place in the life of Jesus in *Matthew 28:1-10*?

How many people saw Christ after His resurrection according to *I Corinthians 15:4-8*?

What importance does the resurrection have for those who believe in Christ according to *I Corinthians 15:17*?

WHAT OTHERS SAID ABOUT JESUS

Take a look at those who hated Jesus in *John 5:18* and *John 10:33*. Who do you think Jesus' detractors thought He claimed to be?

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"Jesus, a simple carpenter's son among the shavings and sawdust of His father's workshop was in reality God in the flesh!"

Aristides

Record what those who knew Jesus well said about Him:

Thomas - in *John 20:28*

John - in *I John 5:11,12*

Consider what another New Testament writer said about Jesus. Read Hebrews 1:1-4 and put a check mark by what this writer thought.

- Jesus Christ is God
- Jesus Christ is a good teacher
- Jesus Christ is not God

Which of the above statements best describes what YOU think about Jesus Christ?

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Having come to grips with what your own estimation of Jesus, ponder for a moment what the options are for those who say He was not God.

Option One: He was a liar. He deliberately misrepresented Himself. This notion says He went against all His teaching on honesty and moral purity. This would make Him a colossal hypocrite. Not only would He be a hypocrite, but also a fool. Only a fool would be willing to die for what He knew were false claims. This goes against everything that we know about the character of Jesus Christ. This view cannot be seriously held even if we acknowledge that Jesus was just a good teacher.

Option Two: He is a lunatic. Those who hold to this view say He was in fact sincere, but sincerely wrong. If Christ sincerely thought He was God, when in fact He was not, then He deluded Himself and those around Him. Christ would then be a lunatic in the fullest sense. But do we find in Jesus the characteristics of a deranged person? There is no evidence whatsoever of any imbalance or abnormality. In fact, we find in Jesus one who excels with order and coherence in all circumstances.

Which statement best describes your beliefs now about Jesus Christ?

He is a liar

He is a lunatic

He is a good teacher

He is God

Other. Explain:

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THE PURPOSE OF JESUS CHRIST'S FIRST COMING

It is imperative to acknowledge that Jesus is the provision to restore man's relationship with God. It is also critical to see that Jesus is God in human form. These two issues form a basis for understanding the reason Jesus came to earth some 2000 years ago.

Formulate from the following Old and New Testament writers why Jesus Christ came to earth the first time:

Old Testament Prophet

Isaiah 53:6

Jesus' Statement

Matthew 20:18,19

Gospel Writer

Mark 10:45

Jesus' Friend

Acts 4:10-12

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Apostle

Galatians 1:3,4

Jesus Christ's purpose in coming to earth the first time was to: Finish statement in your own words.

Read the verse again in *Acts 4:12*. Check the statement which is true.

- There are all kinds of different ways God will allow people to fellowship with Him and enter heaven.
- Jesus Christ's death on the cross is God's way to provide man with fellowship with Himself. There are no other provisions.
- There is really no way a man can know for sure how to relate to God and have answers to life's most serious questions.

**The atoning death of Jesus Christ
is the only true ground of
acceptance with God.**

Discovery

OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S FIRST COMING

As you read *John 3:16* you will see that it speaks of believing in Jesus Christ. Write your personal definition of "believe".

Can you agree with the fact that Jesus is God's only provision for you?

Read *Romans 10:9* and *I Corinthians 15:1-4*. What does a person have to specifically believe according to these verses?

Can you agree with the fact that Jesus gave sufficient payment for your sins?

What is a false basis for belief according to *Ephesians 2:8,9* and *Titus 3:5*?

Can you agree with the fact that there is nothing you can do to earn, deserve or work for your salvation?

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Which statement do you think possesses more truth?

- God would be selfishly exclusive to not allow other ways to fellowship with Him and receive forgiveness. There are other ways.
- God is compassionate beyond measure to allow His Son to pay the penalty for my sins. There can be only one way.

**Because God is holy and just,
He demands that there be
a payment for your sin.
Who, but Jesus being God Himself,
could satisfy God's penalty?
Who, but Jesus being man,
could represent you on the cross?**

To become a Christian means you have made a conscious decision to reject all the ways you had previously thought you could know God on your own. To become a Christian means you now put your faith in Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for your sins. If you have previously made this decision to trust Christ, share in the space below how it happened.

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Bible References For Lesson #4

I John 5:11-13

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

Ephesians 3:11,12

This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

John 6:26-40

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. "Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. "But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

John 10:30

"I and the Father are one."

Mark 1:40-42

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and

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touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

Mark 2:3-12

And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”— he said to the paralytic — “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Luke 22:47-51

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” And one of them struck the servant* of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.* Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

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Mark 4:35-39

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Mark 6:45-51

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night* he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded.

Luke 8:26-33

And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village." And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Luke 8:49-55

While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her

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by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.

Matthew 28:1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. "Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

I Corinthians 15:4-8

That he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

I Corinthians 15:17

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

John 5:18

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 10:33

The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

John 20:28

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

I John 5:11,12

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Matthew 20:18,19

See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Acts 4:10-12

Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Galatians 1:3,4

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

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I Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Ephesians 2:8,9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

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CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF CHRIST LESSON #5

Most married couples start their marriage with wedding vows to demonstrate their commitment to one other. A married couple makes promises that provide a context for their love to flow freely. Imagine if every so often a husband said to his wife, "Honey, I am just not feeling very loving today. I suggest that if you want me to love you that you make my favorite meal and that you not do anything to disappoint me." The shortfalls to such an approach is glaring and gross. Yet such an approach is lived out in the lives of many Christians every day. Many believers in Jesus Christ live their spiritual lives with a sense that God is eager and ready to declare His disappointment with him/her. Some still think that God will flip the switch to end the relationship if they really "mess up". No marriage can be healthy if either spouse approaches the relationship with such obvious conditions as illustrated above. No Christian life can be healthy if we view our acceptance with God as conditional.

God wants us to know that we are fully accepted by God through Christ. He doesn't want us to go around wondering if He accepts us today. Assurance is vital for a dynamic Christian life.

How can we be vulnerable to someone and entrust ourselves to them if we are not fully confident in their unconditional acceptance of us?

The Basis of Assurance

According to I John 5:13, what is the basis of having assurance that we have eternal life?

Understanding certain truths are essential to having assurance in our relationship with God. Every man since Adam has inherited a natural bent to disregard God. The choice of disregarding God and refusing to obey the commands of God is called **sin**. Sin produces a true, objective, moral guilt before God. True moral guilt is to be differentiated from subjective feelings of guilt. In other words, God declares us guilty because of our sin (Rom. 3:23). We are guilty before a holy, righteous God whether we "feel" guilty or not. Sin has disconnected man from the resource that provided him with the ability to have right relationships. And sin has separated man from God for eternity. The ultimate consequence of man's response to God is his spending an eternity in heaven or hell (*Revelation 20:15*).

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The basis for being reconciled to God is through the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ. This truth is what separates Christianity from all other religions. Religions focus on being reconciled to God through human effort (baptism, obedience to a creed or commandments). Christianity emphasizes being reconciled to God based on what God has done for man through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:23).

Consider a comparison between the Old Covenant of Israel in the Old Testament and the New Covenant of Christ in the New Testament. The passages from Genesis listed under the Old Covenant demonstrate how even before the Old Covenant was established God used substitutionary atonement as a way to deal with mankind.

LEVITICAL SYSTEM (O.C.)	JESUS' DEATH (N.C.)
earthly tabernacle/temple	heavenly (presence of God)
animal sacrifices	His own blood
year after year	once for all
RESULT: ceremonial cleansing only	RESULT: full salvation
Genesis 3:21, 4:3-5, 8:20-21, 22:1-14, Exodus 12:1-14, Leviticus 4, 16	Luke 22:13-20, II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 1:19-20, 3:18, Hebrews 9

Why is it God no longer demands animal sacrifices according to Hebrews 10:8-14?

What are the results of Christ's substitutionary atonement? One result is our new standing with God. The following biblical terms describe in more practical and concrete ways the new standing we have received through Christ's substitutionary atonement. We also call this our *position* in Christ.

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TERM	PASSAGES	SETTING	MEANING	RESULT
JUSTIFICATION	Rom. 3:24 Rom. 5:1	Law-Court	Acquitted; Declared Innocent	Acceptance
REDEMPTION	Gal. 3:24 Gal. 3:13	Slave-Market	Delivered by Payment of Ransom	Freedom
PROPITIATION	Rom. 3:25 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10	Temple	Satisfaction of Wrath	Security
RECONCILIATION	Rom. 5:10 2 Cor. 5:18-21	Human Relationships	Peace by Resolution of Enmity	Personal Reunion

All of these *have been* accomplished by the finished work of Christ (note past tenses) and are therefore the *permanent* possession of *every* Christian from the moment of conversion.

Read the following passages and note the promises of God. Try to note not only the promise, but also what the promise is based on.

I Peter 1:3-5

Romans 8:1, 31-39

John 10:27-30

Ephesians 1:13, 4:30

Ephesians 1:4,5

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Importance of God's Promises

We cannot relate to God with confidence unless we know He accepts us as we are, with all of our sins. Also, Christians who don't know their security in Christ remain superficial in their awareness of their sinfulness or defensive about it—they can't bear this light because their acceptance before God is still practically based on their righteousness.

"'I am accepted' – accepted as though my life displayed the spiritual perfection of the Messiah Himself – ought to be the automatic response of our hearts whenever we wake, like the compass needle that always points north. This is a response which is always relevant to our current spiritual condition. We never make such progress in sanctification that we can depend on it for (God's) acceptance. And our continuing record of sin and failure never expands beyond the limits of the love of Christ, who has covered our debts for all time, past, present, and future . . . Most Protestants have therefore concluded that assurance of salvation is necessary for healthy spirituality. Christians need to know that they have a secure status as adopted sons and daughters of God in order to behave naturally in his presence. For us to be phasing in and out of sonship according to our behavior, constantly testing our experiences to make sure we are in a 'state of grace,' short-circuits the reality of grace." (Richard Lovelace, *Renewal as a Way of Life*, pp. 142,143.)

What difference does the assurance of our salvation have on how we communicate the gospel to others?

What difference does the assurance of our salvation have on how we encourage new believers?

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Many churches/Christians affirm that we are justified by grace apart from works, but they then teach or imply that we are sanctified by law through works – that as Christians we have the ability and the obligation to live the Christian life by our own resources. According to this view, if you don't grow, it is because you don't want to grow or because you didn't try hard enough. Others may be very passive and take no role in pursuing sanctification through faith. But the Apostle Paul insists that sanctification, just like justification, is given to us by God's grace and received simply by faith. Therefore, balance is needed as we consider God's role and our role.

Read Galatians 3:1-3. What was the problem of some of the Galatians in their view of the Christian life?

What correlation does Paul make from how we were saved to how we walk in the Christian life in Colossians 2:6?

Imagine that you owe the IRS over a million dollars in back taxes. They have denied your request for an extension and informed you that an agent will be at your house at 11:59 p.m. to impound your house unless you make full payment. You exhaust all of your resources and are able to come up with only \$433.16. At 11:00 p.m., your doorbell rings. Fearing the worst, you open the door to find a stranger who puts a check in your hand. The check is made payable to you, and is worth well over one million dollars. What must you do to be freed from your debt? You would want to ascertain that funds were on hand to cover this check, and then you would have to endorse the check and deposit it in your account. In other words, you would have to take action – but you wouldn't say afterwards that you had delivered yourself from the IRS! Your action was really only appropriating the gift that was given to you. In the same way, we have received the gift of eternal life from God for salvation and we continue to receive by faith His resources to live the Christian life.

According to Galatians 2:20, what is the object of our faith in the Christian life?

Discovery

Compare the two diagrams below. Describe how they are different.

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Discovery

Read the below statements regarding who God says we are “in Christ”.

***We are accepted in Christ**

We are God’s children. John 1:12

We are Christ’s friends. John 15:15

We have been justified (Declared by God to be accepted). Romans 5:1

We are united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit. I Cor. 6:17

We have been bought with a price. We belong to God. I Cor. 6:20

We are members of Christ’s Body. I Cor. 12:27

We are saints. Ephesians 1:1

We have been adopted as God’s children. Ephesians 1:5

We have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 2:18

We have been redeemed and forgiven of all our sins. Colossians 1:14

We are complete in Christ. Colossians 2:10

We are Secure in Christ

We are free from condemnation. Romans 8:1-2

We are assured that all things work together for good. Romans 8:28

We are free from any condemning charges against us. Romans 8:31-34

We cannot be separated from the love of God. Romans 8:35-39

We have been established, anointed and sealed by God. II Cor. 1:21

We are hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

We are confident that the good work God has begun in us will be perfected.

Philippians 1:6

We are citizens of heaven. Philippians 3:20

We have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. II

Timothy 1:7

We find grace and mercy in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We are born of God and the evil one cannot touch us. I John 5:18

We are Significant in Christ

We are the salt and light of the earth. Matthew 5:13,14

We are a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. John 15:1,5

We have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. John 15:16

We are personal witnesses of Christ. Acts 1:8

We are God’s temple. I Corinthians 3:16

We are ministers of reconciliation. II Corinthians 5:17-21

We are God’s coworkers (see I Corinthians 3:9)

We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm. Ephesians 2:6

We are God’s workmanship. Ephesians 2:10

We may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Philippians 4:13

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How can the above facts of who we are make a difference in what we do and how we think about ourselves?

The Bible often gives imperatives (commands) to Christians that are based on indicatives (statement of fact or reality).

Read Ephesians 4:32 and note what are the indicative and imperatives in the passage.

What might be the result of living the Christian life merely by commands or imperatives?

What would the Christian life look like that consisted merely of indicatives (facts of who we are in Christ) without imperatives?

One day you wake up praising God, witnessing to your neighbor, going to fellowship, studying your Bible and ending with long prayer. The next day you wake up in a foul mood, get in a fight with your spouse, goof up at work, and get so depressed that you don't show up at church. Which day are you more/less acceptable to God?

That's right, it is a trick question. God accepts us and loves us on both days. Even though God does not approve of all our actions, He accepts us unconditionally.

This lesson was adapted from materials from Xenos Christian Fellowship, 1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus, Ohio, 43229. <http://www.xenos.org>

Discovery

Bible References For Lesson #5

I John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Revelation 20:15

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Genesis 3:21

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Genesis 4:3-5

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,
and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Genesis 8:20-21

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the onkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And

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Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. "Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. "And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, "and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.* "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. "They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. "Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. "And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. "In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. "For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. "The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."

Leviticus 4

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And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If anyone sins unintentionally* in any of the Lord's commandments about things not to be done, and does any one of them, “if it is the anointed priest who sins, thus bringing guilt on the people, then he shall offer for the sin that he has committed a bull from the herd without blemish to the Lord for a sin offering. “He shall bring the bull to the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord and lay his hand on the head of the bull and kill the bull before the Lord. “And the anointed priest shall take some of the blood of the bull and bring it into the tent of meeting,

“and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle part of the blood seven times before the Lord in front of the veil of the sanctuary.

“And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense before the Lord that is in the tent of meeting, and all the rest of the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

“And all the fat of the bull of the sin offering he shall remove from it, the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails

“and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys

(just as these are taken from the ox of the sacrifice of the peace offerings); and the priest shall burn them on the altar of burnt offering.

“But the skin of the bull and all its flesh, with its head, its legs, its entrails, and its dung—

“all the rest of the bull—he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, to the ash heap, and shall burn it up on a fire of wood. On the ash heap it shall be burned up.

“If the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally* and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they do any one of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, and they realize their guilt,*

“when the sin which they have committed becomes known, the assembly shall offer a bull from the herd for a sin offering and bring it in front of the tent of meeting.

“And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the Lord, and the bull shall be killed before the Lord.

“Then the anointed priest shall bring some of the blood of the bull into the tent of meeting,

“and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord in front of the veil.

“And he shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that is in the tent of meeting before the Lord, and the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

“And all its fat he shall take from it and burn on the altar.

“Thus shall he do with the bull. As he did with the bull of the sin offering, so shall he do with this. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven.

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“And he shall carry the bull outside the camp and burn it up as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the assembly.

“When a leader sins, doing unintentionally any one of all the things that by the commandments of the Lord his God ought not to be done, and realizes his guilt,

“or the sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring as his offering a goat, a male without blemish,

“and shall lay his hand on the head of the goat and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the Lord; it is a sin offering.

“Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering.

“And all its fat he shall burn on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings. So the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin, and he shall be forgiven.

“If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any one of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, and realizes his guilt,

“or the sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has committed.

“And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill the sin offering in the place of burnt offering.

“And the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

“And all its fat he shall remove, as the fat is removed from the peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a pleasing aroma to the Lord. And the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven.

“If he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish

“and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering.

“Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

“And all its fat he shall remove as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on top of the Lord's food offerings. And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

Leviticus 16

The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died,

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and the Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

“But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

“He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.

“And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

“Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house.

“Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

“And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel.

“And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering,

“but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

“Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself.

“And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil

“and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die.

“And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.

“Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

“No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel.

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“Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around.

“And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat.

“And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.

“The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

“Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the Holy Place and shall leave them there.

“And he shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.

“And the fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar.

“And he who lets the goat go to Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

“And the bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. Their skin and their flesh and their dung shall be burned up with fire.

“And he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

“And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves* and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you.

“For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins.

“It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever.

“And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father's place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments.

“He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

“And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins.” And Moses did as the Lord commanded him.

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Luke 22:13-20

And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. "For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. "For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

II Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I Peter 1:19-20

But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake.

I Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Hebrews 9

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.

For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.

Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,

having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties,

but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

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By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing

(which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,

but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)

he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh,

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.

For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.

For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you."

And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship.

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,

for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

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And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 10:8-14

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Romans 3:24

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:24

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” —

Gal 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

Romans 3:25

Whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

I John 2:2

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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Romans 5:10

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

II Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of

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my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 1:4,5

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

Galatians 3:1-3

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Colossians 2:6

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discovery

I Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

I Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

I Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 1:5

He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

Ephesians 2:18

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Colossians 1:14

In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 2:10

And you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:31-34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Discovery

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II Corinthians 1:21

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us.

Colossians 3:3

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

I John 5:18

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Matthew 5:13,14

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

John 15:1,5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Discovery

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

I Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

II Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I Corinthians 3:9

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Ephesians 2:6

And raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 3:12

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Discovery

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.